

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on April 8, 2004, **JOHN H. BROOKS**, age 29, of Chicago, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. BROOKS, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute 100 kilograms or more of marijuana, was sentenced to 66 months' imprisonment, 4 years supervised release, and was fined \$600.

The investigation established that between at least October 2001 and October 13, 2003, BROOKS was transporting marihuana from Chicago to Carbondale for redistribution. On October 13, 2003, BROOKS was arrested in Carbondale. At the time of his arrest, BROOKS was in possession of marihuana and more than \$4,300, which included pre-recorded buy money. Co-defendant TRAVIS L. ELDER, has pled guilty to his role in the conspiracy and is awaiting sentencing.

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, Murphysboro Police Department, Perry County Drug Task Force and Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to those agencies' participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative in the Southern District of Illinois. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals who use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson.